WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A system for generating modified image data, comprising:

an input image modifying circuit or routine that over-enhances at least one image feature of input image data to generate intermediate image data; and

an intermediate image modifying circuit or routine that alters at least one over-enhanced image feature and at least one other image feature of the intermediate image data to generate the modified image data.

2.   The system according to claim 1, wherein the input image modifying circuit or routine over-enhances at least the sharpness feature of the input image.

3.   The system according to claim 1, wherein the input image modifying circuit or routine comprises a sharpness values altering circuit or routine.

4.   The system according to claim 3, wherein the sharpness values altering circuit or routine alters the sharpness values of the input image data to values above a commonly desired value.

5.   The system according to claim 3, wherein the input image modifying circuit or routine further comprises a sharpness values adjusting circuit or routine.

6.   The system according to claim 1, wherein the input image modifying circuit or routine further comprises at least one of:

a contrast values altering circuit or routine; and

a saturation values altering circuit or routine.

7.   The system according to claim 6, wherein the contrast values altering circuit or routine alters the contrast values of the input image data to values below a commonly desired value.

8.   The system according to claim 6, wherein the saturation values altering circuit or routine alters the saturation values of the input image data to values below a commonly desired value.

9.   The system according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate image modifying circuit or routine comprises a sharpness values altering circuit or routine.

10.   The system according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate image modifying circuit or routine comprises at least one of:

a saturation values altering circuit or routine;

a black level value altering circuit or routine; and

a luminance values altering circuit or routine.

11.   A system according to claim 10, wherein the saturation values altering circuit or routine alters saturation values of the intermediate image data to values below a commonly desired value.

12.   A system according to claim 10, wherein the black level value altering circuit or routine rescales black level value of the intermediate image data.

13.   A system according to claim 10, wherein the black level value altering circuit or routine rescales black level value of the intermediate image data to a value such that a blackest black of the intermediate image data is interpreted as gray.

14.   A system according to claim 10, wherein the luminance values altering circuit or routine alters luminance of all other colors of the intermediate image data to correspond with the altered black level value.

15.   A system according to claim 14, wherein the luminance values are altered by an inverse-gamma-inverse operation.

16.   A system according to claim 1, wherein:

the input image modifying circuit or routine comprises:

a sharpness values altering circuit or routine,

a sharpness values offsetting circuit or routine,

a contrast values altering circuit or routine, and

a saturation values altering circuit or routine; and

the intermediate image modifying circuit or routine comprises:

a sharpness values altering circuit or routine,

a saturation values altering circuit or routine,

a black level value altering circuit or routine, and

a luminance values altering circuit or routine.

17.   A system according to claim 1, wherein the generated modified image data is suitable for use as a background image.

18.   A system according to claim 17, wherein the generated modified image data is suitable for use as a background image for checks.

19.   A method for generating modified image data, comprising:

over-enhancing at least one image feature of input image data to generate intermediate image data; and

altering the at least one over-enhanced image feature and at least one other image feature of the intermediate image data to generate the modified image data.

20.   A method according to claim 19, wherein generating the intermediate image data comprises over-enhancing at least a sharpness feature of the input image data.

21.   A method according to claim 19, wherein generating the intermediate image data comprises altering the values of a sharpness feature of the input image data to a value above a commonly desired value.

22.   A method according to claim 19, further comprising, when generating the intermediate image data, altering the values of at least one image feature of the input image data different from at least one over-enhanced image feature.

23.   A method according to claim 22, further comprising, when generating the intermediate image data, altering at least one of:

contrast values of the input image data; and

sharpness values of the input image data.

24.   A method according to claim 23, wherein altering the contrast values comprises altering the contrast values of the input image data to values below a commonly desired value.

25.   A method according to claim 23, wherein altering the saturation values comprises altering the saturation values of the input image data to values below a commonly desired value.

26.   A method according to claim 19, further comprising, when generating the modified image data, altering the sharpness values of the intermediate image data.

27.   A method according to claim 19, comprising when generating the modified image data, altering at least one of:

saturation values of the intermediate image data;

black level value of the intermediate image data; and

luminance values of the intermediate image data.

28.   A method according to claim 27, wherein altering the saturation values comprises altering the saturation values of the intermediate image data to values below a commonly desired value;

29.   A method according to claim 27, wherein altering the black level value comprises rescaling the black level value of the intermediate image data.

30.   A method according to claim 29, wherein rescaling the black level value comprises rescaling the black level value of the intermediate image data to a value such that a blackest black of the intermediate image data is interpreted as gray.

31.   A method according to claim 27, wherein altering the luminance values comprises altering the luminance values of all other colors of the intermediate image data in coordination with the altered black level value.

32.   A method according to claim 29, wherein altering the luminance values comprises altering the luminance values of the intermediate image data using an inverse-gamma-inverse operation.

33.   A method according to claim 19, wherein:

generating the intermediate image data comprises:

altering sharpness values of the input image to values above a commonly desired value;

offsetting sharpness values of the input image,

altering contrast values of the input image, and

altering saturation values of the input image; and

generating the modified image data comprises:

altering sharpness values of the intermediate image data,

altering saturation values of the intermediate image data,

rescaling black level value of the intermediate image data, and

altering luminance values of the intermediate image data.

cancelled 33.   A method according to claim 19, wherein the generated modified image data is suitable for use as a background image.

34.   A method according to claim 33, wherein the generated modified image data is suitable for use as a background image for checks.